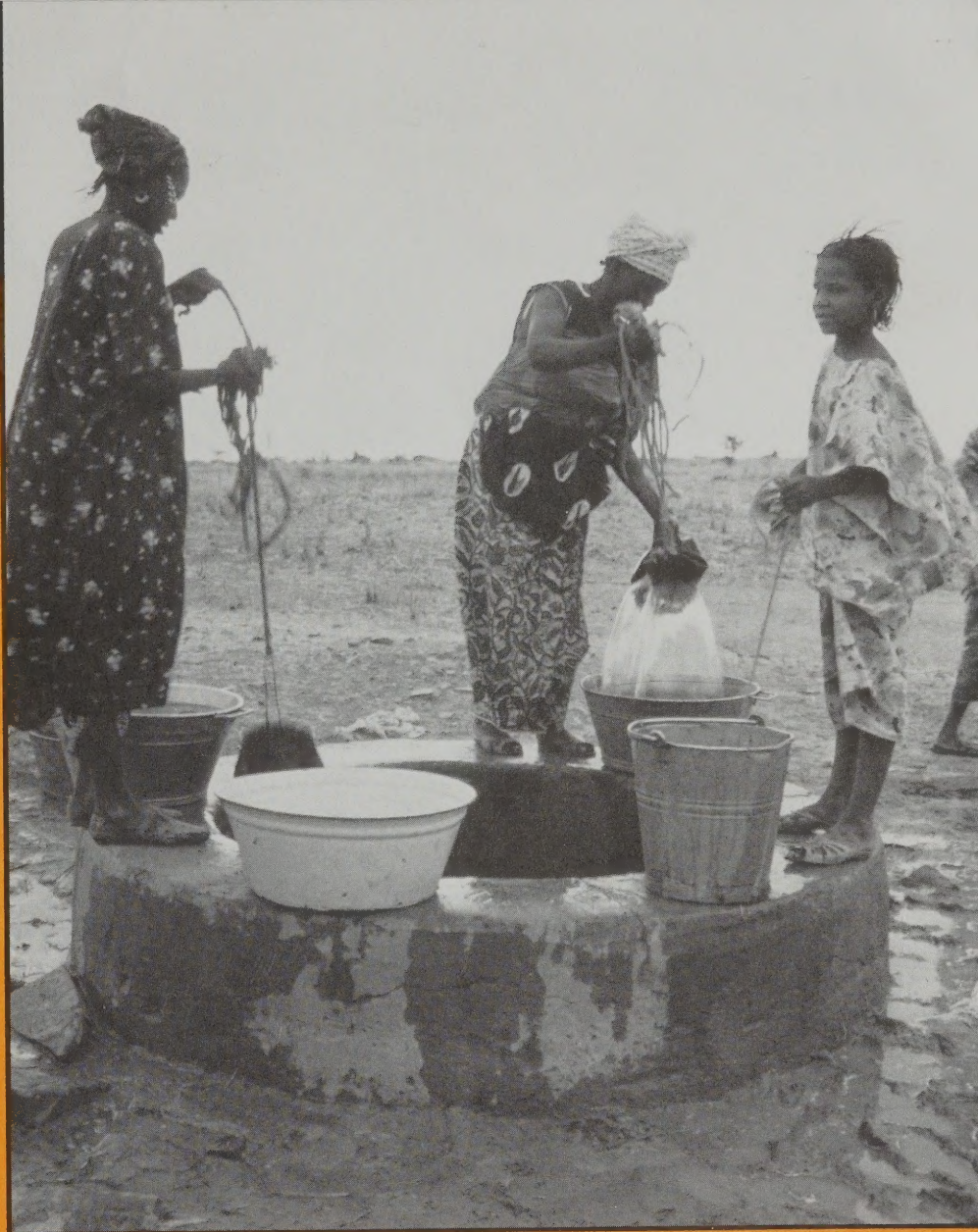
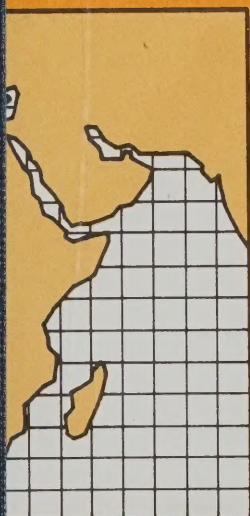
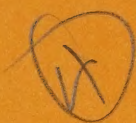


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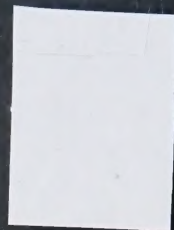


# Country Profile

# **Mali**

Canada





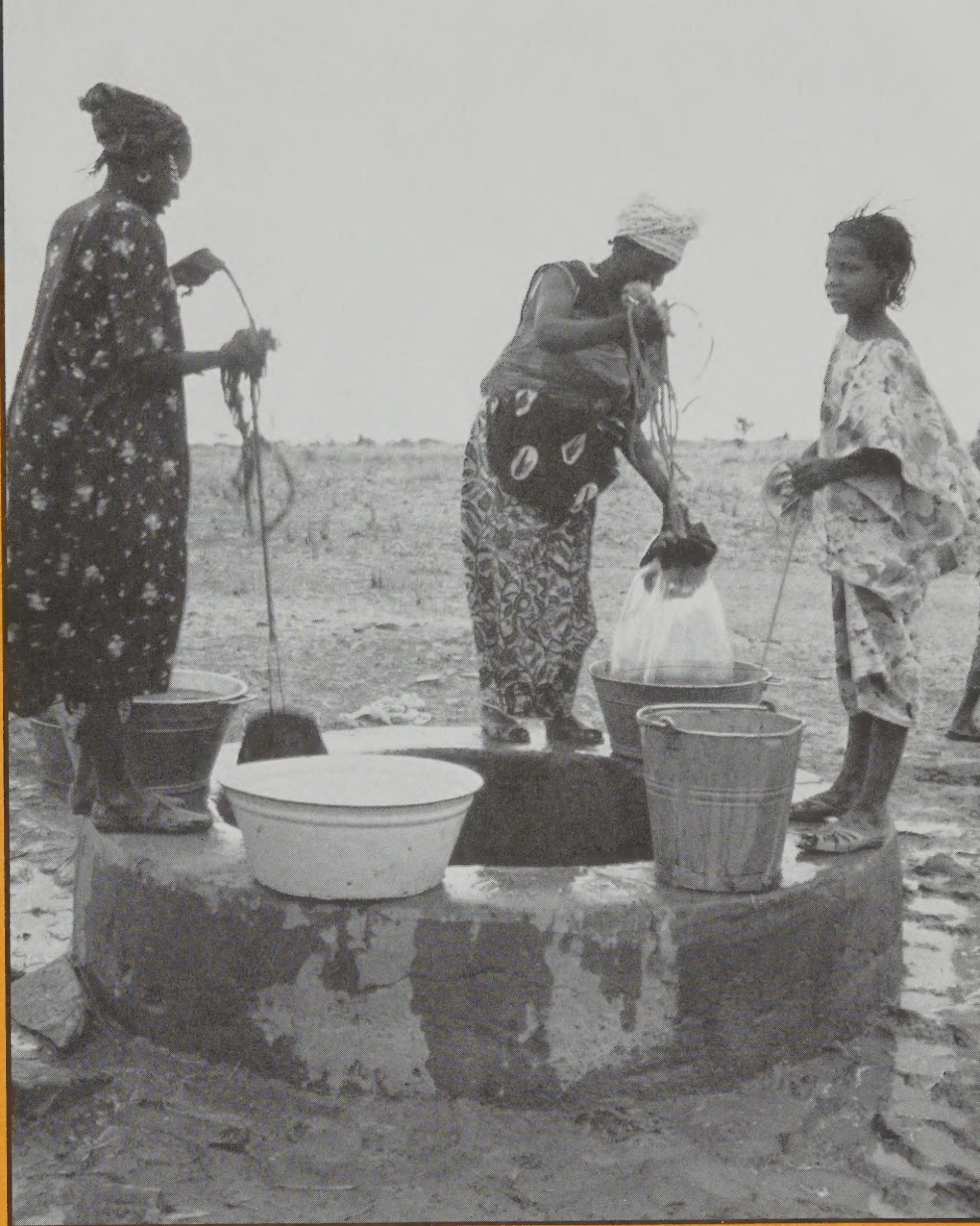
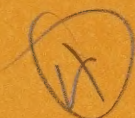


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# Country Profile

## **Mali**

Canada





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## MALI

### The Setting

With an area of 1,240,700 sq km, Mali is the second largest country in West Africa. Its neighbours are all former French territories: Algeria to the north, Mauritania and Senegal to the west, Guinea and the Ivory Coast to the south, and Burkina Faso and Niger to the east. A landlocked country, Mali is one of the countries of the Sahel, a name that means "coastline" in Arabic. It forms the shore of the Sahara Desert.

The Sahel is a vast steppe south of the Sahara, extending more than 7,500 km from west to east. Because rain is scarce and the soil is generally poor, only shrubs grow there. In this zone between the brushland and the desert, the balance between people, livestock and vegetation is delicate.

This part of Africa came into prominence during the terrible famine of 1972-73. More than 100,000 people died of starvation in the Sahel, and, depending on the area, from 30 to 80 per cent of the livestock perished. Extreme human suffering and the upsetting of the ecological balance were serious obstacles to the economic development of the countries of the region.

The rains returned in 1975 and 1976. But since 1977, rainfall in the Sahelian zone has steadily decreased. The situation has worsened considerably in the past three years and the countries of the Sahel are once again threatened with famine. The current drought in the region seems even more serious than that of the 1970s -- in fact, it is the worst of the century. It is occurring after almost ten years of poor crops, during which time these countries have been unable to build up reserves.

As in the last famine, Mali is hard hit by persistent drought. In October 1983, the country was forced to issue an urgent appeal to the world community. The food crop shortfall for the year 1983-84 was estimated at 380,000 tonnes of grain. The calorie intake of most of the population (rural and urban) is below the minimum standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO). More than half the young children suffer from chronic malnutrition. Undernourishment of the population is especially critical in the Sahelian zone and in areas where food crop production is insufficient.

### Relief and Climate

For the most part, Mali is a flat country. Altitudes range from 25 m along the banks of the Senegal River to 150 m in the Dogon region in the east. Between these two points are plateaus with an average elevation of 400 m.

In Mali, the type of vegetation is determined by the amount of rainfall. In the far north is the Saharan zone, with desert covering a quarter



(300,000 sq km) of Mali's territory: There the climate is dry and rain is very scarce. In the north and northeast, the Sahara merges imperceptibly with the Sahel. The greater part of Mali is in the Sahelian zone, which is an immense steppe with sparse vegetation. Its vegetation consists of small, prickly, stunted trees. The rainy season lasts from mid-July until mid-October. During the long dry season, plant life remains dormant.

Herdsmen live in the Sahelian zone. In fact, herding is the only viable way of life in this region. However, this ecologically fragile environment is threatened by the growing human and animal populations.

In the southern part of the country, the Sudanic zone marks the transition between the Sahelian and Guinean zones. This region is characterized by sparse woodland, which gradually gives way to savanna as the rainfall decreases. It has a dry season and a rainy season (May to October), during which rainfall is more frequent and regular. This zone is the most suitable region for agriculture.

Mali has a high average annual temperature between 26° and 30°C.

Two rivers, the Senegal and the Niger, play a vital role in Mali's geography and economy. Located in the central and southern parts of the country, these rivers have always been major thoroughfares and a source of fish for the people who live along them. This imbalance in the distribution of water resources helps to explain the uneven human settlement of Mali's territory.

### People

Mali is a meeting point of civilizations and peoples, and a mosaic of ethnic groups. Some groups live in well-defined areas: the white African population (15 per cent) is concentrated in the north, in the Sahara, where the Tuareg and the Moors live. The black population (85 per cent) is divided into several ethnic groups, the main ones being the Bambara (Manding) in the central part of the country; the Songhai in the Niger Bend areas; the Sarakole in the Senegal valley; the Malinke between the capital, Bamako, and the Guinean border; the Dogon in the east; and the Peul throughout the territory.

There is a definite difference between the way of life of the nomadic peoples and that of the sedentary peoples. The nomadic group consists of the Tuareg, the Moors and the Peul. These peoples generally live in the north and their main activity is herding. The sedentary peoples include the Bambara, the Songhai, the Dogon, the Sarakole and the Malinke.

In 1983, Mali had an estimated population of 7 million. The country is relatively unpopulated, with an average of 5 people per square kilometre. But this figure gives a rather inaccurate picture of human settlement of the land. In terms of arable land, the population density is 353 people per square kilometre. The central and northern parts of the country, which are totally or partly desert, account for 60 per cent of its area. In the northern part, the population density is 0.5 people



per square kilometre; in the Sahel region, it is only 7.3 people per square kilometre.

Mali is not an urban country: more than 80 per cent of its population lives in rural areas. The annual population growth rate is about 2.7 per cent. Life expectancy at birth is estimated at 45 years, one of the lowest in the world. The birth rate, on the other hand, is quite high (2.8 per cent), as is the mortality rate for newborn infants (20 per cent). On the whole, the infant mortality rate is about 132 per 1,000 live births. Nearly 40 per cent of children die before the age of 5 years; 70 per cent die before the age of ten. Nevertheless, on the whole, the Malian population is young; nearly 55 per cent of the population is under the age of twenty. Only 27 per cent of school-age children attend school. School enrolment in rural areas is 10 per cent, mainly because part of the population is nomadic. These figures show the extent and the seriousness of the problems of schooling, training and employment. The adult literacy rate is roughly 10 per cent. The majority of the Malian population is Muslim (69 per cent). Nearly a third practice traditional animism; only 1.5 per cent is Christian. The official language is French. In addition, many other languages and dialects are in common use: Arabic in the north, Manding in two-thirds of the country, and Bambara, which is one of the major languages of West Africa.

#### Economy

Located in the heart of western Africa, Mali has an ancient civilization. It was the seat of the medieval empires of the western Sudan, the Bambara kingdoms of Ségou and Kaarta, and the Peul theocracies. From the Middle Ages to the 18th Century, Mali was a crossroads of all the major trade routes. The country takes its name from the Mali Empire, which was celebrated for its fabulous wealth. In the 14th Century, this empire extended inland from the Atlantic and from the edge of the Sahara in the north to the Guinean forest in the south. However, this glorious era was followed by a dark period.

The first incursions by the Portuguese tipped trans-Saharan trade in their favour as merchants diverted it to Europe around the coast. This upsetting of traditional trade routes and despoiling of its riches eventually led to the breakup of the Mali Empire, especially in the 17th and 18th centuries, when the slave trade became predominant in the region. This era saw the birth of warrior states based on slavery. In the 19th century, Moslem religious leaders under El Haj Omar succeeded to some extent in reunifying the area, but ran into French outposts along the Senegal River.

In 1885, the Western powers met in Berlin to carve up Africa among themselves. Called Upper Senegal, then the Sudan ("country of black men"), Mali remained a French colony until 1956, when it was granted home rule. In 1958, following a referendum, the Sudanese Republic was born. This republic was initially associated with Senegal in the Mali Federation, but the federation fell apart in 1960 and Mali became an independent state. Under its first president, Modibo Keita, the country adopted a socialist orientation and withdrew from the French political



and financial community. In 1968, a group of young army officers, the Comité Militaire pour la Libération Nationale (CMLN), seized power in a bloodless coup. Colonel Moussa Traoré became head of state. In 1974, the CMLN proposed a new constitution and a single-party system. The Union Démocratique du Peuple Malien (UDPM) was formed in 1976. Three years later, General Moussa Traoré was elected President of the Second Republic.

### Economy

Mali is one of the five poorest countries in the world. Frequent droughts have added to its economic and financial woes in the past fifteen years. Its per capita GNP is US\$180, with an average annual growth of 1.6 per cent and an inflation rate of 9.8 per cent. On the whole, the Malian economy is characterized by a sharp imbalance between the sectors of activity:

- in the past decade, agricultural production has fallen by about 10 per cent, while the population has risen by about 25 per cent;
- industry accounts for 10 per cent of the GDP; however, most of Mali's manufacturing involves the processing of agricultural raw materials. Therefore, this sector is directly affected by climatic conditions and their effects on agricultural production;
- only a few service industries are experiencing rapid growth. This is due in part to public sector activities.

Cut off from the sea, lacking major mineral resources, with a fragile agricultural sector and a weak industrial sector, handicapped by insufficient infrastructure for transportation, storage and communications, and struggling with illiteracy and endemic diseases, Mali is seeking to break out of the cycle of underdevelopment. The country is also feeling the pressure of external constraints. For example, the economic recession has had a direct effect on the Malian economy, leading to instability in its major exports and a chronic deterioration in its terms of trade, resulting in an even larger budget deficit. Moreover, because of the drought that has been going on for more than ten years, Mali has been forced to import food each year in order to make up for the food crop shortage. The rain shortfall in 1983 ranged from 30 to 60 per cent, depending on the region; total grain production was down 30 per cent compared with 1979. Nearly 3.7 million Malians, or 42 per cent of the total population, are affected by the drought.

The drought has also directly hit Malian herdsmen and livestock. In the eastern part of the country, nearly 30 per cent of the livestock is threatened. It is said that in the northwest the greater part of the livestock is affected. This catastrophe is taking place at a time when the herdsmen, whose stock is being rebuilt, are recovering from the disastrous consequences of the drought of 1969-73. These factors and chronic malnutrition have forced the country to call upon the generosity of the international community, especially since Mali is in a precarious financial situation with a budget deficit and a heavy service on its foreign debt. With the support of the International Monetary Fund, the Malian government has undertaken a program of economic and financial



reorganization to correct this situation. The first phase has already yielded positive results: reduction of the budget deficit, stabilization of the balance of payments and improvement in the trade balance. With the help of donor countries, Mali has also drawn up a plan of recovery for agricultural production so that the country will eventually be self-sufficient in food.

#### Retrospective of the Canadian Program

The main aims of Canadian assistance to Mali are the achievement of self-sufficiency in food, reduction of the trade deficit, and the fight against desertification and isolation. Canadian aid is provided in the form of grants and includes government-to-government co-operation, projects run by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and institutional cooperation projects. Mali also benefits from the World Food Program, in which Canada participates.

The Canadian aid program began in 1969 with support for education. Over the years, it has been directed to economic assistance and has focussed on rural development, energy, transportation and education. Between 1980 and 1983, Mali received nearly \$37 million in government-to-government assistance (bilateral aid), for a total of nearly \$65 million since the start of the Canadian assistance program.

Since 1973, Canada has also been providing food aid to Mali. In 1982, CIDA introduced a \$12 million, three-year food aid program. In the same year, 5,000 tonnes of corn were sent to help Mali make up for its food crop shortfall. In 1983-84, 7,000 tonnes of wheat were sent. In 1984-85, Canada sent 10,000 tonnes of corn. These shipments of food aid will help to alleviate famine in the country, but serious problems hamper Malian agriculture.

#### Key Sectors of Mali's Economy

Agriculture: Nearly 73 per cent of the labour force is employed in agriculture (one of the five highest in the world); 117,000 sq km, or 9.4 per cent of the national territory, is arable. However, the amount of land actually cultivated is much less -- only about a fifth of the arable land. Traditional subsistence farming accounts for most of the land under cultivation. More than half this area is used for millet, which, with sorghum, corn and rice, accounts for most of the country's food crop production. Because of a lack of fertilizer, land is left fallow for a long time, although this period is tending to decrease today as a result of population pressure. To a large extent, the food crisis in the Sahel countries is due to a population explosion and the upsetting of the fragile ecosystem. But above all, the scarcity of rain and the uneven rainfall distribution explain the relationship of agriculture to the current disaster.

Since the great drought of 1972-73, Mali has suffered from a chronic shortfall in food crop production. To meet the pressing needs of the country, since 1978 CIDA has been carrying out a rural development program in the Kaarta region in the northwest part of the country, which is one of the areas hardest hit by desertification. This is one of the



largest Canadian development projects in Francophone Africa. The first phase, costing \$29 million, consisted of eight parts: agriculture, livestock raising, rural trails, village water supply, community health, literacy, mapping and crop protection. The aim was to increase food crop and livestock production while ensuring progressive development of the land, thus enabling the inhabitants to achieve a decent standard of living. Phase II of the project is now under way. To help Malian farmers store the little that they produce, Canada has financed the construction of three granaries in the past year.

Finally, in the area of village water supply, CIDA has continued the improvement of a quality control service for water and drinking water in the three Malian villages of Djenné, Diré, and Douentza.

Cash crops: Exports involve mainly two crops: cotton and unshelled peanuts. The most important crop is cotton, which is produced in the southern part of the country. In the past decade, cotton production has risen considerably, increasing its share of the total value of exports from 33 to 57 per cent. Peanuts, on the other hand, have declined in importance, falling from 22 to 14 per cent in the same period.

Livestock raising: Livestock plays a key role in the economy. Herding is a traditional activity in Mali, which is one of the leading livestock-producing countries in French-speaking Africa. In 1971, livestock production accounted for nearly half of exports. Drought decimated a large part of the livestock population. In all, more than a third of the cattle and goat herds perished. Immediately after the drought, livestock production accounted for only 30 per cent of exports. Since then, herds have been built back up, but the drought in the northern and eastern parts of the country is once again a serious threat.

Fishing: With its warm waters, Mali has always been a major producer of fish. This traditional activity is increasing. Fishing involves some 100,000 people and provides about a third of the animal protein consumed by Malians. Nearly 90 per cent of the catches are made in the Niger Delta area. It is estimated that 70 per cent of the fish is dried or smoked by traditional methods. The rest is sold or eaten fresh. However, the smoking operations necessitate the use of large quantities of wood, thus contributing to the gradual deforestation of an area already poor in wood. As well, overfishing threatens the renewability of this resource.

### Industries

In 1982, industry accounted for 12.4 per cent of GDP. In the past twenty years, this sector has grown faster than the economy as a whole. However, its share in the national economy is still small. Its expansion is hindered by many factors, including:



- high transportation costs because the country is landlocked;
- the narrowness and irregularity of the market, which is mostly rural and whose purchasing power depends on agricultural production;
- the lack of investment and basic industries.

The most important industry is agri-food, followed by textiles.

#### Mineral Resources

On the whole, this sector is barely developed. The only current mining operations are salt mining (annual average 3,000 tonnes) in the far north and phosphate mining in Bourem (20,000 tonnes). Since 1980, mineral exploration has been intensified and has resulted in the discovery of oil, uranium, and diamonds, although the potential of these deposits has not yet been determined. A gold mine has been in operation since 1979. Gold is already the country's third-largest source of export revenue. At present the mining is done in a rudimentary fashion, but industrial operations are planned for 1985.

Energy resources: The shortage of energy resources in Mali is a damper on economic activity. Energy is produced and distributed by the Société d'Energie du Mali (EDM), which operates twelve generating stations, including two hydroelectric plants. CIDA helped complete the Selingué-Bamako power line to supply the capital with electricity.

#### Transportation and Communications

With no outlet to the sea, Mali is dependent on neighboring coastal countries with port facilities. Goods can travel by rail all the way to the port of Dakar in Senegal, but must travel by road as far as Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso before transshipment by rail to the port of Abidjan in the Ivory Coast.

Major projects have been undertaken in the past few years to upgrade and modernize the rail system. Canada has participated in two technical assistance and equipment projects. The Régie des chemins de fer maliens (RCFM) received \$2 million in technical assistance for two years (1978-1980) to modernize its railway management systems. As well, \$6 million of railway equipment was provided. The second phase of this project, begun in 1984, will cost \$32 million. It will complete the technical assistance program and will enable Mali to purchase new Canadian-made railway cars and locomotives.

The Senegal and Niger rivers are also important transportation axes. Rail and river transport are complementary modes in the Malian transportation system. The Compagnie malienne de navigation (CMN) has been the beneficiary of two technical assistance projects: one involving administrative reorganization, the other a contribution of equipment to increase the tonnage transported on the Niger River and to improve the supply of food and materiel to isolated areas.



### Regional Projects

Because of the seriousness of the problems faced by the Sahel countries, CIDA also participates in a number of regional projects that benefit Mali and the Sahel countries as a whole. Among these is the institutional support that CIDA has provided to the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and to the Club du Sahel. These two co-ordinating bodies are responsible for implementing a medium- and long-range development plan to ensure food security for the people of the Sahel by the year 2000. CIDA also participates in the work of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) and finances an aid program to the Niger River Commission.

The Panaftel project, to which CIDA contributes, is intended to provide Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal with a modern, efficient microwave telecommunications system.

In the area of education, CIDA has provided assistance to the Ecole inter-Etats des techniciens supérieurs de l'hydraulique et de l'équipement rural and to the Centre for the Study of Information Techniques (CESTI), as well as to a regional training project on co-operatives.

### Non-Governmental Organizations

Mali is a priority for Canadian NGOs. In 1984-85, they spent nearly \$5 million in the areas of village water supply, community health and development, literacy and training. UNICEF Canada, the Foster Parents' Plan of Canada, Inter Pares, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, and the Fame Pereo Institute are the most active agencies in this country.

### Institutional Cooperation

Institutional cooperation is carried on through financial support to agencies such as Canada World Youth, Canadian Crossroads International, World University Service of Canada and universities, unions and cooperatives. In 1983-84 these agencies made it possible for more than sixty Canadian volunteers to work in Mali, chiefly in the areas of technical assistance, agricultural advisory programs and development of cooperatives.

### Multilateral Aid

Canada also contributes to a number of regional and international agencies, such as the African Development Bank, the World Bank and United Nations agencies that provide financial assistance to Mali for development.

The African Development Bank plays an important role in the development of regional physical and human resources, and also contributes to a co-ordinated approach to the growth problems of the African continent.



Nearly 25 per cent of the ADB's total loans, estimated at more than \$2 billion, have been granted to the countries of the Sahel. Canadian participation in the ADB is substantial (nearly \$46 million in 1983-84). Canada's share of the capital stock makes it the fourth largest donor, at the same level as France, after the United States, Japan and West Germany.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has granted more than \$7 million to Mali for projects in agriculture, rural development and community health. CIDA contributed \$59 million to the UNDP in 1984-85.

The UNICEF program in Mali provides for disbursements of more than \$8 million between 1982 and 1986 for programs in the areas of health, village water supply, nutrition and social services. Canadian participation in UNICEF in 1983-84 was \$14.5 million.

The United Nations Fund for Population Activities has granted nearly \$450,000 for projects in literacy, education and family planning. Canada contributed more than \$10 million to this agency in 1983-84.

#### CIDA and Mali in the 1980s

The serious situation that Mali and the other Sahel countries find themselves in today has as its immediate cause drought combined with desertification. The drought is of natural, climatic origin. The desertification results from the upsetting of the ecological balance. When the two phenomena combine, the result is a food crisis that threatens the survival of the population affected.

Although the current drought in the Sahel is not unprecedented, it is apparently the longest and most serious that the region has experienced in the twentieth century. In fact, since 1969 the Sahel countries have suffered one year of drought after another; there is not enough rain anywhere and what rain there is is unevenly distributed. Nowhere is food production sufficient. Mali, like its Sahelian neighbours, is faced with the cumulative effects of several years of drought. Each year, its population is weakened further.

The Sahel countries must also deal with desertification, which each year eats up dozens of kilometres of vital space. Along with drought, it is the major development problem faced by the sub-Saharan peoples. This desertification, although related to climatic factors, is primarily the result of a socio-ecological imbalance. Desertification is associated almost exclusively with the advance of the Sahara. However, desertification also occurs in areas where pressure from the population is too strong; for example, around large urban centres or grazing land. The loss of vegetation leads to sterilization of the soil, thus creating a micro-desert. Each year, this desert perimeter will continue to enlarge, through the action of active dunes, unless protective measures are taken. The phenomenon of desertification can best be understood in terms of the four elements involved and their interaction: humans, climate, vegetation and soil. Desertification is not an irreversible process; it can be halted by, for example, better use of water resources and reforestation. Using water to create green spaces would improve the



health of the human and animal population. Unlike climate, it is foreseeable and reversible.

In summary, the socio-ecological balance in the Sahel, which includes Mali, has been upset: plant cover is fast disappearing, the soil is becoming impoverished, food production is deficient and energy needs are mortgaging the region's future. In this context it is more accurate to speak of survival than of development.

Canada's aid program recognizes this reality. Therefore it is concentrated on a central objective:

#### Helping to establish a new socio-ecological balance

To achieve this, the Canadian aid program intends to tap the area's human potential by developing a program involving the people. The people must be the chief agents and beneficiaries of development.

The Canadian program intends to concentrate on three areas:

- stabilization of plant cover;
- food balance;
- energy development.

#### Stabilization of plant cover

The aim of this program is to rationalize the use of rural space through action based on the villages' ability to take control of the redesign and preservation of their environment. In general, afforestation, dune stabilization, rationalization of herding and village water-supply development will be carried out in the most seriously affected areas. Current projects have a forestry component and a farming-herding component. The main forestry projects under way involve combatting brush fires and planting trees around villages. At the farming-herding level, there are projects under way to make judicious use of land and resources through the designation of herding areas and herd rationalization. CIDA is also supporting the Malian government's efforts to restructure the grain market and to boost farm productivity by providing inputs and developing small irrigated perimeters.

#### The food balance

This program is intended to ensure a nutritional balance in rural areas and to help make Mali self-sufficient in food. The second phase of the rural development project in Kaarta (\$25 million) falls into this category. The aim is to improve living conditions through basic services, such as water supply, or by granting credits for seed, inputs and crops. A Malian organization, ODIK (Opération de développement intégré du Kaarta), is in charge of this project. CIDA is providing technical and administrative assistance, and is also supporting this agency in four areas: assistance to community organizations, supervision of economic agents, drilling of waterholes and environmental protection. A Canadian firm has been hired under this project to carry out about 480 drillings for water. All these activities are intended to help



establish a new socio-ecological balance in Kaarta, based on optimum use of resources and self-managed development.

#### Energy development

The fight against desertification requires the replacement of wood as the chief source of energy with other local sources of renewable energy. The Canadian program therefore intends to concentrate on developing economical sources of energy for rural use, such as improved domestic fireplaces. In the area of hydroelectric energy, there are interconnection and regionalization projects to satisfy Mali's immediate electricity needs.

These three major areas of intervention are complemented by supporting activities that are necessary for the development and success of the projects. These supporting activities include the development of human resources and village water supplies. Specific actions in the areas of education, health and co-operative development will help make it possible to fully involve the people of the Sahel in development projects. Development of water resources is the major part of the Canadian program. In fact, it is a prerequisite for the success of the other development projects. CIDA therefore plans a major village water supply program. The Agency's priority is the rural population, especially women, who are the main producers and who are responsible for nutritional balance.

For such a program to succeed, the donors must co-ordinate their efforts and the African countries must devise and carry out a national agricultural policy. The aid agencies have agreed to designate afforestation and the development of water resources as priorities. For its part, Mali has already made major efforts to stimulate agricultural production and to implement the plan for self-sufficiency in food.

Canadian NGOs have an important role to play in CIDA's program. They are powerful agents of change and are particularly effective at carrying out projects at the community level. The institutions and agencies coming under ICDS also have African expertise and experience in the selected sectors, along with the necessary logistical flexibility, and are able to adapt to local social and economic conditions.

#### Future prospects

Mali is currently in a difficult situation because of the drought in Africa. The country must also combat desertification, which is threatening its agriculture and livestock. However, the country is not without assets. Mali has great agricultural potential. Only 20 per cent of its arable land is under cultivation. Development of its rivers is only beginning and its hydroelectric and irrigation potential is considerable. Finally, the Malian government's determination, expressed in its commitment to restructure the grain market and to develop a food strategy, should result in a more diversified, more productive agricultural sector.



Profile

Official name	Republic of Mali
Capital	Bamako
National currency	Malian franc
Date of independence	Sept. 22, 1960
Date of constitution	June 2, 1984
Principal commercial partners	France, Ivory Coast, Federal Republic Germany, United Kingdom, China, Low Countries, Senegal
Religions	Islam (65%), animism (30%), Christianity (5%)

Comparative Data

	<u>Mali</u>	<u>Canada</u>
Official language	French and Bambara	French, English
Other languages spoken	Peul, Songhai	
Ethnic groups	Bambara, Fulani, Peul Songhai, Malinke, Tuareg Dogon	
Area	1,240,190 km <sup>2</sup>	9,976,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Population (1982 estimates)	7.1 million	24.3 million
Estimates for the year 2000	12 million	29 million
Population density	5.7 people per km <sup>2</sup>	2.4 people per km <sup>2</sup>
Population growth rate (1970-1982 estimates)	2.7%	1.2%
Life expectancy at birth (1982)	45 years	75 years
Infant mortality rate (1982)	132 per 1,000 live births (179 in 1960)	10 per 1,000 live births



Adult literacy rate	10%	99%
Primary school enrolment (1981)		
total	27% (10% in 1960)	total 100%
boys	35% (14% in 1960)	
girls	20% (6% in 1960)	
Percentage of labour force in: (1980)		
Agriculture:	73%	5%
Industry:	12%	29%
Services:	15%	66%
Daily per capita calorie supply as percentage of requirement (1981)	72%	126%
Percentage of population with access to safe water (1975)	9%	
GNP per capita (1982)	US \$180	\$11,320
Annual growth of GNP (1960-82)	1.6%	3.1%
Annual rate of inflation (1970-82)	9.8%	9.3%

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